Mesquite Rt 1 Box 221C
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Dear Rite,

5/20/87

I don't know how much time I'll have today and in the near future for the disgusting thing Newcomab started 13 years ago and the infantile Tatro renewed only recently. I responded to Tatro once and told him I'd have no more to say to him. Emory Brown wrote and anticipating that I'd hear from you I made a carbon for you that I ehclose. I've just returned from the regular examination by the cardiovascular surgeon in Washington and that generally tires me by the afternoon and I have some community responsibilities this afternoon, so I won't have much time now and it is likely I'll nott take more time later. On its face, to anyone with any maturity at all Newcomb's tale can't be true in his interpretation.

That was long ago and enti eoy innocent and regular, so I'd forgotten it until you phoned, when some of it came back to mind. I think I recalled more in writing Tatro and I am quite clear on it now in seeing what Newcomb wrote. I may not have told Tatro all I could have, and I now am not certain, mer ly to avoid furthur misingofmation. And I'm fairly confident that Lifton was behind what Newcomb says. He then was amnipulating Newcomb and we had some harsh exchanges in a kooky undergroubd paper as of about the time of that letter or a little earlier. And I'm paying no attention to the rest of that letter.

First of all, I did not write the letter to Newcomb, as any examination of it makes clear. When I was in N.O. I worked around the clock. My handwriting is close to illegible, os when I decided to ask what I asked of Newcomb, and I'Ol come back to that, and have it mailed that day, when I would be working outside of Garrison's office, as I did most of the time I was there, I asked Louis Ivon if I could dictate a brief memo to Newcomb to one of the secretaries. He took me into the pool room and I dictated to Lorraine LeBoeuf. That she used DA stationary I am sure was not known to me until later when Fred made some childish stink of it. I do not remember that I even signed it. Ask for a copy and see.

My purpose was the exact opposite of "showing a doctored photograph around town to implicate a suspect." It was to confirm or refute what I'd already been told by two people in the official story of the crime. As I recall it was not the one photo Newcomb refers to but four photos. I am certain that one involved the part of the hair on the opposite side and I am certain that one involved a beard. This is because of what these two witnesses had told me, one twice, t e interviewes separated by a considefable period of time. I have the second two interviews on tape. After what I'd been told the first time, with a series of about 100 miscellaneous photos used to be sure there was a real choice, I did this a second time, the second time in addition to taping with a second person with me. Both of these people had identified Thornley pictures and had not identified Oswald picturesyet in the official story they are said to have identified Ossald as the person they saw.

Fred is correct in saying that he did a lousy job. It was useless. But is it not apparent that if I'd been up to anything at all questionable I'd have had the work done in secret? I could have had it done through Garrison or Ivon, for example. Why would anyone in his right mind involve someone in the critical community if he were up to something wrong?

The rest of what Fred says at this point has nothing to do with me and he is just a scoundrel to pretend that I had or wanted "blurry photo comparisons, wierd associations (although in retrospect I'LL have to admit that my earlier association with Newcomb qualifies for this description), forged guest books, trumped up arrest cards, pjony codes..." He is a rotten, contemptible liar

As far as my intention of hurting Thornley, for whom I have no use at all, is concerned, when he was about to get into trouble with Garrison, as he proceeded to do, I sought ought his socalled agent, Clint Bolton, told him I thought I could forestall

that if he'd talk to me, and Bolton even wrote about this in a column he wrote for a French Quarter weekly. He recommended to Thirnley that he take me up on it. He did not and he had a lot of trouble that he might have avoided.

That anypne with any knowledge of the field and the people in it could give a second thought except in condemnation of what Fred wrote sickens me and tells me that they lack ordinary common sense. Why would anyone up to anything wrong go out of his way to leave a trail? Obviously, anyone with any common sense would stop with this question.

Fred wrote this to Tatro in 1974, which was a year before my first thrombosis and at a time I was quite active. If Tatro had any innicent purpose in raising any question, he could, obviously, have written or phoned me. He did write me about other matters from time to time. And is it no obvious that if I could take the time for your phone call I could and would have taken that time fir a phone call from him?

So, to me t is is a best a childish business and evil at the same time. And ought I not believe that if Tatro is capable of crediting any aspect of that fabrication, I want nothing to do with him?

Emory Brown was also in touch and he was here, with others, perhaps even including Tatro. But he could have had Emory ask me about that, could he not?

Come to think of it, there is no way at all Thornley's lawyer could have learned of this except through Newcomb. Certainly not from me or Garrison s office, which except for the one secretary, knew nothing about it. I am certain that Lifton got in touch with Thornley's lawyer.

I'll listen to t e tape until the people I'm to be occupied with the rest of the day come for me.

Sorry, of course, about your hand trouble. Don't lose any sleep over this. It won't hurt me. I'm just disgusted by it from grownups....You are not the culprit. You had a right to ask. Why didn't he instead of spreading it around more?.... Because these people may come at any minute, I want to assure you first of all that there is nothing wrong in your asking me about what you'd been told and as you know I was not angry about that. What dismays me is that Tatro would wait more than a decade and then spread libels around. ...You refer to Fred's book. I've not seen it. Because I've had no interest in it after what I learned about him....I'd not know that Fred mentioned me in his book. ...You have no need to feel badly or guilty. If Tatro were ever to make any mention of any such thing he should have asked first. But do you now have a better idea of why I'm detached from just about all the others who occupy themselves in such ways?...Remember, I was quite active when Tatro got that letter and illness is no excuse for his not seeking tye truth then. I was not as angry with him as I was dismayed and disgusted.I wrote Emory Borwn because I've kept no file on Tatro and don't have his address on my rotodex. But there is no need to forgive you because you did nothing wrong. You did what he should have done if he were ever to make any mention of it....I won't have time to correct the typose, so please excuse. Have to stop. Feel easy not guilty. You did nothing wrong. Best wishes,

Harold